

Serial No. 09/957,008  
Attorney Docket No.: 2001-0134.02

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (Previously presented) A method of processing data packets, comprising:
  - receiving at a device a plurality of the data packets at a selected node;
  - extracting pertinent information from the data packets, the pertinent information being pertinent to said selected node, comprising:
    - generating a decoded signal corresponding to input packet offset of a received data packet word;
    - selecting between the decoded signal and data pertaining to the device and generating a selection output signal based upon the selection;
    - comparing at least a portion of the received packet word to the selection output signal; and
    - indicating to the device that payload data corresponding to the received data packets is valid based upon the comparison;
    - generating a plurality of response data packets based on the pertinent information, wherein said extracting and generating steps are performed without use of a microprocessor; and
    - transmitting a signal indicating that the response data packets should be sent.
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (canceled).

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11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (Previously presented) A data packet communication system, comprising:

a peripheral device;

a filter device connected to said peripheral device, said filter device being configured to receive a plurality of data packets and identify pertinent information in said data packets, said pertinent information being pertinent to said peripheral device, said filter comprising a pattern generator providing a decoded output signal corresponding to input packet offset of a received data packet word, a selector selecting one of the decoded output signal and data pertaining to the peripheral device, and circuitry comparing at least a portion of the received data packet word to an output of the selector and generating at least one signal indicating acceptance of a successfully received data packet based upon the comparison;

a packet generator connected to said peripheral device and said filter device, said packet generator being configured to generate a plurality of response data packets based on said pertinent information,

wherein said packet generator is configured to transmit said response data packets; and

wherein said filter device is configured to transmit a signal indicating that said response data packets should be generated.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said packet generator is configured to transmit said response data packets to a packetized data network.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, further comprising a protocol state machine configured for receiving the signal from said filter device and issuing a request to said packet generator to transmit said response data packets.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

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23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (canceled)

26. (Presently amended) A data packet communication device, comprising:

a filter device configured to receive a plurality of data packets and identify pertinent information in said data packets;

a packet generator configured to generate a plurality of response data packets based on said pertinent information, comprising a pattern generator providing a first decoded signal corresponding to outgoing packet offset, and a selector selecting one of the first decoded signal, information pertaining to the peripheral communication device and outgoing payload data;

wherein said filter device is configured to transmit a signal indicating that said response data packets should be generated.

27. (Previously presented) The device of claim 26, further comprising a protocol state machine configured for receiving the signal from said filter device and issuing a request to said packet generator to transmit said response data packets.

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the extracting further comprises indicating to the device that the payload data corresponding to the received data packets is not valid upon the determination during the comparing that the at least one portion of the received packet word does not match the selection output signal.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the extracting comprising storing a source address of the received data packets, and wherein the response data packets includes the stored source address.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the generating comprises:

providing a second decoded signal corresponding to outgoing packet offset, and selecting one of the second decoded signal, information pertaining to the peripheral device and outgoing payload data to form at least part of the response data packets.

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34. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the circuitry further generates a signal indicating that payload data corresponding to the received data packets is not valid based upon the comparison.

35. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, further comprising a mask generator providing a bit-mask corresponding to the input packet offset, the bit-mask being applied to the received data packet for comparing by the circuitry.

36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein the packet generator comprises:

a pattern generator providing a decoded signal corresponding to outgoing packet offset, and a selector selecting one of the decoded signal, information pertaining to the peripheral device and outgoing payload data to form at least a portion of the response data packets.

37. (Previously presented) The device of claim 26, wherein the filter device comprises:

a pattern generator providing a second decoded signal corresponding to input packet offset of a received data packet word, a selector selecting one of the second decoded signal and data pertaining to the peripheral device, and circuitry comparing at least a portion of the received data packet word to an output of the selector and generating at least one signal indicating acceptance of a successfully received data packet based upon the comparison.

38. (New) The device of claim 26, wherein the information pertaining to the communications device comprises protocol information corresponding to the protocol with which the device received the plurality of data packets.

39. (New) A method of processing data packets, comprising:

receiving at a device a plurality of the data packets at a selected node;

extracting pertinent information from the data packets, the pertinent information being pertinent to said selected node, comprising:

generating a decoded signal corresponding to input packet offset of a received data packet word;

selecting between the decoded signal and data pertaining to the device and generating a selection output signal based upon the selection;

comparing at least a portion of the received packet word to the selection output signal; and

indicating to the device that payload data corresponding to the received data packets is valid based upon the comparison;

generating a plurality of response data packets based on the pertinent information; and

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transmitting a signal indicating that the response data packets should be sent.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the extracting further comprises indicating to the device that the payload data corresponding to the received data packets is not valid upon the determination during the comparing that the at least one portion of the received packet word does not match the selection output signal.

41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the extracting comprising storing a source address of the received data packets, and wherein the response data packets includes the stored source address.

42. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the generating comprises:

providing a second decoded signal corresponding to outgoing packet offset, and selecting one of the second decoded signal, information pertaining to the peripheral device and outgoing payload data to form at least part of the response data packets.